LODGE AND C.I.A. DIFFER ON POLICY

Ambassador and Agency's Chief in Saigon Clash on Conduct of War

By DAVID HALBERSTAM
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Oct. 3 — Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and the head of Central Intelligence Agency operations in Saigon do not agree on United States policy for Vietnam.

The Ambassador would be happier with a new C.I.A. chief. [The present C.I.A. chief in Saigon is believed to be John Richardson.]

This is not a problem of personalities. What is involved is in part the traditional relationship, sometimes of rivalry, between the State Department and the C.I.A. In part it involves the problem of whether the C.I.A. should be primarily a straight intelligence network, or have operative functions; whether there should be separate chiefs for intelligence and operations.

It is believed here that Mr. Lodge feels that when a man is assigned to an important and, as in this case, difficult operative function, the requirements of that post conflict with the objectivity and disinterest required of an intelligence chief.

There is no evidence that the C.I.A. chief has directly countermanded any orders by the

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Ambassador. Assertions that he has are denied in all quarters here.

Rather, even amid the current controversy, it is acknowledged that the C.I.A. chief for more than a year has carried out the extremely difficult and taxing job of working closely with Ngo Dinh Nhu. In this aspect of his duties he has done a superior job, say the other members of the mission. It is the basic contradiction between this role and that of an intelligence chief that is at stake.

Informants here say Mr. Lodge has told Washington he wants a new chief and that the C.I.A. is fighting back. The matter is believed now resting with the White House.

It is believed here that Mr. Lodge and the C.I.A. chief see this war effort in somewhat different lights. Likewise, they see the proper function of a C.I.A. chief in different lights.

It is also true that in recent weeks in Saigon, as a major re-evaluation of United States policy has been taking place, the American mission here has tended to become the theater on a small scale of the traditional conflict in Washington of the Pentagon, the State Department and the C.I.A.

[illegible] the present struggle over the C.I.A. chief is believed to [illegible] the struggle by Mr. Lodge [illegible] to establish himself as the real as well as the nominal head of the American mission here.

At the moment, some sources say, there is a growing effort to make the C.I.A. the scapegoat for the unhappy events of the last six weeks. When Government forces raided Buddhist pagodas on Aug. 21 the C.I.A. seemed confused about what was going on. There followed the demand by Washington that Ngo Dinh Nhu and his wife be pushed out of the Government … the regime.

[illegible] of the intelligence agency are accused of using recent events as an opportunity to voice their bitterness against the agency.

[illegible] persons in Saigon contend that [illegible] intelligence [illegible] most successful programs of the [illegible] counter-insurgency [illegible]

White House Seeks Harmony

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 — The Administration … today … to bring different departments and agencies dealing with South Vietnam under the policy umbrella spread yesterday by President Kennedy.

Various officials expressed the view that the special White House statement had not resolved interdepartmental controversies any more than the special trip to Vietnam by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara had resolved the Administration's basic problem in dealing with the Saigon Government.